countercontact being electrically connected to said load and said second countercontact being electrically connected to said external terminal, said cavity being configured to receive said housingless switching mechanism such that said switching mechanism when below its response temperature is in direct electrical contact with said first and second countercontacts for electrically interconnecting said first and second countercontact with each other.

A1 Cont.

12. (Amended) A device as in Claim 6, wherein the bimetallic element is configured as a bimetallic tongue that at its first end is attached to a guide element being inserted together with the switching mechanism into the cavity, and at its free end carries the movable contact element.

A2

13. (Amended) A device as in Claim 7, wherein the spring element is configured as a spring tongue that at its first end is attached to a guide element being inserted together with the switching mechanism into the cavity, and at its second end is joined to a first end of the bimetallic element, which at its free end carries the movable contact element.

14. (Amended) A device as in Claim 7, wherein the spring element has a retaining extension piece that is attached to a guide element being inserted together with the switching mechanism into the cavity.

16. (New) A device, comprising an electrical load, a housing part for said electrical load, an external terminal for supplying electricity to said load, a cavity provided in said housing part for receiving a housingless temperature-dependent switching mechanism, said switching mechanism protecting said load from overtemperature and overcurrent, respectively, a cover that sealingly closes off the cavity after said switching mechanism has been set in place, a first and a second countercontact, wherein one of the two countercontacts is arranged on the cover and the other countercontact is fixedly provided in said cavity, said first countercontact being electrically connected to said load and said second countercontact being electrically connected to said external terminal, said cavity being configured to receive said housingless switching mechanism such that said switching mechanism when being below its response temperature is

A3

in direct electrical contact with said first and second countercontacts for electrically interconnecting said first and second countercontact with each other.

17. (New) A device as in Claim 16, wherein the second countercontact is arranged on the cover.

A3 cont.

18. (New) A device, comprising an electrical load, a housing part, an external terminal for supplying electricity to said load, a housingless temperature-dependent switching mechanism protecting said load from overtemperature and overcurrent, respectively, a cavity provided in said housing part for receiving said switching mechanism, a first and a second countercontact being provided in said cavity, said first countercontact being electrically connected to said load and said second countercontact being electrically connected to said external terminal, said cavity being configured to receive said housingless switching mechanism such that said switching mechanism when being below its response temperature is in direct electrical contact with said first and second countercontacts for electrically interconnecting said first and second countercontact with each other, wherein said switching mechanism is configured as a lossproof unit comprising a bimetallic element and a movable contact element that coacts with one of the two countercontacts, and wherein said switching mechanism comprises a spring element that is held in lossproof fashion on the contact element that coacts with the other of the two countercontacts.

19. (New) A device as in Claim 18, wherein the spring element has a retaining extension piece that is attached to the guide element.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Applicant has amended Claims 12 and 13 in a manner believed to overcome the objection raised under 35 USC § 112. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully solicited.